

A FULL  
VINDICATION  
OF

*Thomas Sheridan, Esq;*

BEING AN  
ANSWER

To a scurrilous Pamphlet, Intituled,  
The CASE of the STAGE.

*Urit enim fulgore suo, qui prægravit Artes,  
Infra se positas.*—————

HOR.

D U B L I N.

Printed in the Year M,DCC,LVIII.



*Speedily will be published,*

A LETTER to a School-Master in the Country,  
from his Friend in Town, relative to Mr. Sheri-  
dan's Scheme of Education.

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A F U L L

# V I N D I C A T I O N

O F

*Thomas Sheridan, Esq;*

**I** HAVE lately read, with a Mixture of Grief and Contempt, a Pamphlet, intituled, *The Case of the Stage in Ireland*: I have also seen, in some News-Papers, several malicious and cruel Paragraphs, wrote with a base Design of blackening the Character of the wisest, greatest, and most worthy Man of the present Age. I believe it will be needless to mention the Person here described is the truly learned *Thomas Sheridan, Esq;* I agree with the sagacious Mr. F-----r's Correspondent, *that his Time would be very ill employed in answering any Libels which may be published against him; and that it would be impossible for him to clear up the Calumnies, and detect the Falshoods, which pregnant Malice may bring forth.* But, I think it my Duty as a Friend to Learning, a Patriot and a Christian, to expose to the public View the Villainies and Misrepresentations of the slavish, abandoned, and prostitute Author of the *Case of the Stage*.

That wicked Libeller hath the Impudence to insinuate, that Mr. *Sheridan's* Stage cannot be called a polite, instructive and well regulated Theatre, because we have been frequently entertained there with Fire-Eaters, Tumblers, Mimicks and Straw-Kickers; but if Gentlemen would reflect a little, they would find, that exhibiting these celebrated Artists on the Stage is of signal Benefit to the Public, and will conduce much to turn





Men from their vicious Courses, and force them into the Paths of Virtue.

*Segnius irritant animos, demissa per aurem,*

*Quam quæ sunt Oculis subjecta fidelibus.*

HOR.

We all know, that the Wicked after this Life are to be punished with eternal Burnings. A Devourer of Flames, by representing on the Stage the Punishment of the Damned, will alarm and shock the most hardened Reprobates, and terrify them into a Reformation. It is allowed that good Preachers have reformed many, by raising their wholesome Fears, which they effected by accurately describing the Pains of Hell; and if a bare Description hath such salutary Consequences, how much must an exact Representation operate upon the Minds of Sinners who croud to see these admired Artists. In the famous Print which is the Frontispiece to the Works of the truly devout Dr. *Jeremy Taylor*, an enormous Mouth is represented belching forth tremendous Fires; opposite to it many Fiends are drawn, hurrying with Pitch-forks into these direful Flames some condemned Sinners, who are writhing with Torment. This admirable Design is executed in so lively and masterly a Manner, that it has amazing Effects on the Lives of those who have carefully perused it. 'Tis well known, Mr. *Sheridan*, who has an excellent Taste in drawing, was struck with this Piece, and improving upon it, resolved to awaken our Terrors, and amend our Hearts, by representing on the Stage a real Swallower of Brimstone and burning Pitch. Shall we then dare to censure the pious Manager, for these his new and uncommon Methods of promoting Religion and Virtue!---- Hence ye Profane! learn Morality from the Mouth of a Fire-Eater; and behold from him what you are to expect hereafter, if you obstinately continue in your evil Ways.

We are also told by the prostitute Slave above-mentioned, that in open Violation of all Law, Decency and Order, Persons have been introduced on the Stage to mimic or take off, as it is fashionably phrased, Gentlemen of good Morals, and unexceptionable Characters, Men of grave and learned Professions. For this mighty

Fault.



Fault, our Manager is most injuriously treated, his very Virtues are made Crimes. Doth not a good Mimic finely ridicule the Foibles and Follies of Mankind? The End of Mimickry, *both at the first and now, was, and is, to hold, as it were, the Mirrour up to Folly; to shew Scorn her own Image; and the very Age, and Body of the Time, its Form and Pressure*: And is it not Mr. *Sheridan's* Business, as a Reformer of Manners, to display the Frailties and Errors of the Age, and paint them in the strongest Colours? And can this be done in a more effectual Manner than by employing Gentlemen to hold up to the Town this much wanted Mirrour? The exhibiting grave Characters on the Stage, in order to make the Vulgar laugh, this Caviller compares to the Punishment of the Pillory. We agree with him, nay, we will own it even worse: If Mr. *Sheridan* was a Magistrate, would he not make use of the Pillory to punish and reform insolent Offenders? But, since Fate has denied him that Power, he has properly determined to make them the Scorn and Jest of the Town, unless they speedily forsake their aukward Follies and absurd Peculiarities. Is not this the moral Use for which the Stage was designed?

He is blamed for introducing Mr. *Maddox* (a Gentleman of unexceptionable Character and fair Deportment) to entertain the Public with a Display of his Activity, and Dexterity in kicking and balancing a Straw; but, after all, is not this a most innocent Amusement, and agreeable Exercise? Are not *Scipio* and *Lelius* admired and celebrated by the Writers of Antiquity for gathering Cockles on the Sea-Shore, by which they shewed the unaffected Simplicity of their Taste and Manners? Did not *Agefilaus*, the most renowned Hero of his Age, ride on an Hobby-Horse, which *Plutarch* affirms was fabricated of a Species of Reed or Bull-Rush, not unlike the wheaten Straw used by our Equilibrist on the Stage, and so greedily sought after by the Spectators in the Pit? Would it not give great Pleasure to all serious and thinking People, (as well as those of the *Hibernian Society*) if young Gentlemen, instead of mis-spending their Time  
with

with a Fencing-Master, who initiates them in the dreadful Art of committing Murder like Gentlemen, would devote some of their leisure Hours in taking a few Lessons from Mr. *Maddox*? I humbly conceive that this would be a very proper Exercise for Gentlemen of the three learned Professions, as it might be practised within Doors, without any great Preparation or Expence, especially for those who are in Holy Orders, or at the Bar, as it would contribute to open the Chest and expand the Lungs; and qualify them the better to excel in the *long-lost Art of Elocution*. Thus the Lawyer will more effectually plead the Cause of the Distressed. Thus the Divine will more successfully rescue Religion from Contempt, and restore Virtue to her ancient Splendor.

Many have been the Schemes formed of late for the Encouragement of Agriculture in this Kingdom, and perhaps none of them can so effectually answer the Design as this important Art of Straw-kicking. It is computed that in this Island there are three Millions of Souls, and if we allow one hundred thousand Persons, at a moderate Computation, to practice this Art; and that they may daily use, one with another, seven wheaten Straws; this must consume seven hundred thousand Straws per Diem; and as each Straw will produce twenty Grains of Wheat, the Quantity of Corn necessary to be raised, must be prodigious to supply this new Demand.

Will not this Exercise then be of infinite Advantage to this poor Kingdom? will it not answer much better than the Corn Bill lately passed? will not the Clergy in particular reap Benefit from this wise Institution? Famine will henceforth no more be dreaded in this Island, but Plenty and Riches succeed to Wretchedness and Poverty.

It is to be hoped, the Governor of the *Hibernian Society* will introduce that, or some such rational and useful Entertainment, among the young Students of this Academy, when he has perfected them in the *Prussian Exercise*. I could likewise wish, that as he has recommended to some select Members of his Society, to charge the

the Right Hon. and Hon. the Judges, to *charge* the several Grand-juries to promote and encourage his Scheme, in the different Counties; he would also *charge* the Right Revd. my Lords the Bishops, to *charge* their Clergy immediately to practice the *Prussian Exercise*, which would, in case of an Invasion, be of infinite Advantage to this defenceless Kingdom. Would it not be laudable also to encourage, by some Church Preferment, those Rev. Gentlemen who should be found to excel in this new Discipline?

The same diabolical Scribbler sneers at our learned Manager for his dancing between the Acts; unmannerly Sarcastm! Cruel Misrepresentation! *Thomas Sheridan*, Esq; did not dance between the Acts; he did not dance until the End of the fifth Act; and was there any thing ridiculous in that? *Aristides*, the justest Athenian that ever existed, excelled all his Countrymen in that Accomplishment. *Epaminondas* and *Pelopidas*, who raised *Thebes* to the highest Pitch of Glory, valued themselves more on their Dancing, than on all their Victories. *Miltiades*, before the Battle of *Marathon*, gave a most magnificent Ball (not unlike the late Grand Subscription one in *Fishamble-street*) when he charmed all his Officers by the Gracefulness and Majesty of his Movements. The learned Reader may consult *Herodotus*, where he will find an ample Account of this sumptuous Ball, and an accurate Description of the Supper and whole Entertainment. Besides, it was a serious Dance, not a Comick one, with which our worthy Manager entertained the Town; and his Friends are fully convinced, that if he attempted high Dancing, he would excell *Maranesi*, *Poitiers*, and *Tioli* in that Art, as much as he now excels Messrs. *Garrick*, *Barry* and *Mossop*, in all the capital Parts of Tragedy and Comedy.

It hath been artfully insinuated, by some malicious People, in order to injure our admired Manager as an Actor, that he frequently played in *London* to empty Benches; but, allowing the Fact, who deserves Censure on this Account? why, the whole People of that  
Metropolis,



Metropolis, particularly the Poets and Criticks, who have suffered their Judgements to be warped by Mr. Garrick, Barry, Messop, Mrs. Cibber, and Mrs. Pritchard. It hath been also whispered abroad, that Mr. Sheridan was hissed in *Convent-Garden*, when he performed the Part of *Romeo*; another vile Misrepresentation.

Hear the real Fact—As he was one Night playing a LoveScene in the above Character, it must be confessed, that something, indeed, was heard like Hissing; on which a warm Friend of his went to him after the Play, and told him, in the Stile of the great and amazing *Romanus*, that he ought not to be mortified or dejected at such Treatment from an *English* Audience; that he should consider, that they were then performing, according to the ancient Custom, the Part of the Slave, and railing at him in the *Midst of the Triumph*, which he had obtained by the *Suffrages of all the good and worthy Part of Mankind*; and that *Scipio*, when in his triumphal Car, crowned with Laurels, after his *Carthaginian* Conquest, was followed by a Slave to remind him of his Mortality. To this our *Hibernian* Orator sagaciously reply'd, “My Friend, you are deceived—The Sound you heard, was a Mark of Wonder and Applause, not of Censure and Mal-treatment—Know then, I have long laboured to bring my Audiences to express their Approbation by a dead Silence, rather than by loud Shouts and Clapping; this all my Friends among the Litterati can testify, many of whom are in the Pit, who, when they observed the pert Templars and greazy Citizens preparing to express their Admiration, in a Goth-like Manner, by Huzzas and loud Claps, judiciously cried out, Hush, Hush, Hush, which being inaccurately pronounced between the Teeth (as these People have never been instructed in the true Principles of Oratory) sounded in your Ears like Hiss, Hiss. But, could you imagine that I was Hiss'd! Ha! Ha! Ha! I Hiss'd, Ha! Ha! Nothing but this was wanting to complete my Glory; this is the *Attic Story* that crowns my Fame; nor can a *Theatrical Earthquake* reduce to Ruins my long-laboured Pile, which is now founded on a Rock.”

But,

But, if this Relation is not thought sufficient to establish Mr. *Sheridan's* Fame as an Actor, *Theatricus*, in a Letter published in the *Universal Advertiser* of the 7th of February, (which Letter, he tells us, is to be hung up as a votive Bow to remain a constant Test of the Difference between the Strength of *ULYSSES* and the Suitors,) hath proved beyond all Controversy, that Mr. *Sheridan* performed a greater Variety of Characters than *Betterton*, *Booth*, *Garrick*, *Barry*, or *Mossop*. This is not to be denied; some invidious People, when this is urged home to them, tell us of one *Tobias Gemee*, Esq; Director of an Itinerant Company, now in the *Isle-of-Man*; they insist, he is the most universal Actor now in Europe; that he excels even in Women's Characters, particularly in *Lady Townley*, and *Lady Betty Modish*. In Answer to this Assertion, I can assure the Public, that many judicious Persons imagine if Mr. *Sheridan* would attempt either of the Female Characters above-mentioned, he would perform them in a very new and entertaining Manner.

But, if Mr. *Sheridan* hath Rivals as an Actor, he can have none as a Critic. *Shakespear* is more indebted to him than to the learned *Warburton*; I do not mean for illuminating the Theatre with Wax-Lights when the Plays of that Poet are represented. No! he hath done more for that great Author, he hath surprisingly corrected and amended his Works; for Example, in the Tragedy of *Romeo and Juliet*, the famous Speech which begins

*O then I see Queen Mab, &c.*

was universally, though erroneously, by all the Editors, given to *Mercutio*. Mr. *Sheridan* was the first Person whose penetrating Judgment cleared up this Mistake, discovered this Speech belonged to *Romeo*, and restored it to him; which has added much Life and Pleasantry to that Character, before injudiciously thought to be that of a soft, tender, whining Lover.

A few Years ago, when Mr. *Sheridan* performed *Romeo*, he repeated these fine Lines (so long usurp'd by

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*Mercutio*)

*Mercutio*) with that Ease, Gaiety, and Humour peculiar to himself. This happy Amendation did great Honour to the Critic, and infused much Spirit into the principal Character of the Play.

As I was once applauding this Improvement, a Friend of mine told me, he was present when *Hamlet* was performed by a Company of Strollers in a Barn. In the Scene where the King and Court sat at the Interlude, the Queen, who perceived the Audience grew languid, requested, with becoming Grace and Dignity, "That Lord *Hamlet* would favour the Court with an Hornpipe." Lord *Hamlet* obeyed her Majesty, and danced that admired Jig with such Strength and Activity, that he enlivened the Tragedy, put the Spectators into good Humour, and received uncommon Applause. In this Improvement to *Hamlet*, which had so fine an Effect, the Gentleman who played that Character has great Merit; yet I am of Opinion, that giving to *Romeo* what was vulgarly thought to be the Speech of *Mercutio*, deserves greater Praise, as the Comic *Romeo* affords more exquisite Entertainment than the Dancing *Hamlet*.

The infernal Author of the *Case of the Stage* asserts, that Mr. *Sheridan* never engages a good Actor, lest the Town should make disagreeable Comparisons; that Mrs. *Woffington* was forced upon him; that he refused to employ Mrs. *Fitz-Henry* last Winter; but is it probable that Mrs. *Woffington* was forced upon him, when she now declares to all her Friends, that his Probity and Honour is equal to his Genius and Knowledge? And if she complains that he detained three or four hundred Pounds of her's for thirteen or fourteen Months, in this he shewed her the highest Degree of Friendship; for he well knew her profuse Temper, and that her Charity and Generosity were unbounded; therefore, he thought this Sum was much more secure in his Possession than in hers. Can any one be so base as to conceive, that he would contaminate his Hands with  
vile



vile Trash? As to Mrs. *Fitz-Henry's* being rejected last Winter, that was not done from any sordid Consideration to save her Sallary, but to give Novelty to her Performance this Year. If he employs on the Stage miserable Performers, it is not because he hires them cheaper, but as Foils to Mrs. *Fitz-Henry*, in order to make her Merit more conspicuous. In this he resembles a prudent House-Keeper, who, on Week-Days, fed her Servants with Tripes and Hog's-Cheek, and when they complained of the wretched Fare, she declared she did not feed them thus, out of any avaritious View, but to give them an higher Relish to their Sundays Beef and Pudding.

Our honoured Manager is also charged with quarrelling with Mr. *Mossop*, because the Town thought Mr. *Mossop's* Merit as an Actor much superior to his—Here the worthy Governor of the HIBERNIAN SOCIETY justly amazes the World with the Extensiveness of his Views for the public Benefit. He discharged Mr. *Mossop*, lest, as he was a Favourite of the Town, he might corrupt the Taste of the People to such a Degree, that, at last, they would be brought to hear with Contempt the just Tones, and musical Cadences of the Restorer of the long-lost Art of Oratory. We are informed, that Mr. *Mossop* sent a Challenge to Mr. *Sheridan*, who refused to answer it: Can any one blame him for so doing? Mr. *Sheridan* is too good a Christian to engage in a Duel; he knows he is commanded when one Cheek is smote to turn the other; he is besides too great a Friend to this oppressed and infatuated Country, to endanger his precious Life, on which he tells us, the Glory and Happiness of this Nation depend.

This defamatory Scribbler so often mentioned, also rails at the wretched and preposterous Figures which are hung out on the Curtain of *Smock-Alley* Theatre, like those which inform us where Monsters are to be seen; but here the ignorant Slave shews his Want of Penetration, in not discovering the just and satyrical

Design of that Piece of Painting; he does not perceive that the great Disproportion between the University-Gate and the Figures which represent Wisdom and the Arts, is intended to shew, that these Arts could not obtain Admittance into the University, though they should creep on all Fours-----Excellent instructive Satyr! Attend to it ye Drones, and ye who loyter away your useless Lives in Indolence and Ease, while

*"You leave to tatter'd Crape the Drudgery of Prayer."*

Peruse the Curtain of *Smock-Alley*, and learn to cultivate the Arts. Perhaps it may be thought that the Pillars which support the Parliament House in the same Piece, are too small for that large Edifice; but this is a keen Stroke on some Right Hon. and Hon. Members of that House, who may be shamed into Virtue by such ingenious and artful Representations; will not every Member, when he beholds these Pillars, reflect on his own Insufficiency to support the great Weight of public Affairs, and endeavour to proportion himself to the Station he bears?

The dull Pedant, thus we see, mistakes his own Want of Wit and Humour, for the Painter's Ignorance of Design and Proportion, and the Manager's Want of Taste in the Arts.

This base and prostitute Slave treats with Contempt, the grand Scheme of erecting an Academy; he seems to apprehend dangerous Consequences from an Academy connected with the Theatre; and like a vile Traitor and perfidious Wretch, to use *Cadwallader's* Words, *endeavours to destroy the Connection*. But, in my Opinion, nothing would conduce more to the Improvement of the Youth of this Kingdom than such a Connection. It is well known, that young Gentlemen have very strong Passions for the Fair Sex, those Passions they always gratify, by which they frequently ruin their Constitution, destroy their Vigour, and entail Misery on themselves and their Posterity. Now, by Mr. *Sheridan's* Scheme, these Misfortunes will be prevented; the  
young

young Gentlemen educated at his Academy, by having a free Intercourse with the beautiful Actresses, will reap all the Sweets of Love without being hurt by it's Sting; for the Ladies of the Theatre, tho' they are often frail, are never so abandoned as to injure by their soft Endearments the Health of their Lovers. By attending the Play-House, the young Gentlemen will also be much polished in their Stile and Elocution. When a modern Buck goes to a Brothel, he swears in a most *inarticulate* Manner, (as he has never studied the Rules of Oratory,) "Damn my Eyes, you are a fine Piece, come *Buss* me Slut, Dam me, we'll Pig together to Night." Whereas, the young *Academic*, taught by our Great Orator, will languish at the Feet of his fair *Statyra*, and breath out in the most moving and persuasive Accents,

" *Thou Nature's whole Perfection in one Piece,*  
 " *Thou yeilding Softness, Down of all my Care,*  
 " *O let me fly into thy twining Arms!*  
 " *And riot in the Soft luxurious Fold,*  
 " *'Till, lost in Extacy, I dye in Joys,*  
 " *Greater, than any I can guess hereafter.*"\*

Thus he will shew his refined Education, his Taste for Poetry, and his Knowledge of Oratory: And if he should proceed even to the *Act of Darkness*, he will Sin, 'tis true, but he will Sin like a well educated Gentleman; and perhaps he may not think it a Sin, and certainly, as Lady Pliant argues, *It is no Sin to those who do not think it one.*

But let not the World imagine Poetry, Oratory and Gallantry, will be the only Accomplishments taught in this Academy. All the polite Arts will be studied and practiced there; Dancing, Musick and Riding the Great Horse, will be particularly attended to. Mr. *Sheridan* will himself inspect the Dancing;

\* See divers Tragedies.



ing; and will perfect them in the Mystery of that Accomplishment in a very few Months. The Figure of each Dance, he will instruct them in, by delineating it on the Floor with Chalk; in the close Dances, where a Female Partner is necessary, Miss *Baker* will assist; but as the Master of the Academy will not have Leisure personally to attend all the young Students, he proposes to send to *London* for the experienced Mr. *Hart* of *Essex-street* in the *Strand*, who has perfected all the young Ladies who frequent *Marble-Hall* and *Cuper's-Gardens*, and taught them the most graceful Movements, and becoming Attitudes. This Gentleman instructs grown Persons in his Art; at his Academy are seen Members of Parliament, grave Doctors of Divinity, and learned Benchers; nay, some say Judges, Bishops, and Privy Councillors attend him, many of whom, who could scarcely bow when he first began with them, are now remarkably excellent not only in the *Minuet*, but in the *Pas Pied*, *Sarraband*, and even in the *Hornpipe*; but this last, they perform only in very private and select Companies.

As to Musick, whatever Scoffers may say, several *Solos* and *Sonatas* on the *Broomstick* will be taught the young Academics; for, after all, if playing the German Flute be such an elegant and pleasing Accomplishment, how much more surprising, and of Course more pleasing, must that Accomplishment be, that can produce Harmony out of a *Broomstick*.

That excellent Performer Seignior \* *Gillwayboni*, will be engaged at the small Expence of five hundred Pounds a Year, as an Instructor in Church Musick. From this many Advantages will arise, as young Gentlemen taught by this renowned Master, will send forth from  
their

\* *A celebrated Italian, I think born at Florence, who imitates exactly an Organ with his Voice.*

their Throats all the Variety and Harmony of the Organ, the most complicated of Instruments; this will certainly be a great Saving to the Nation. The Price of Church Organs we all know is very considerable; but by educating Parish Clerks in these Organ-like Vociferations, each Parish, particularly in the City, will enjoy the Benefit of Church Musick at a very moderate Charge.

Riding the great Horse, a most useful and manly Exercise, will be a principal Object of the Governor's Care. This Part of Education has been hitherto neglected on Account of the great Expence that has attended it. But Mr. *Sheridan* will be able to have it taught in an easy, convenient, safe and cheap Manner; by his Situation as Manager of the Theatre, he has in his Possession several excellent Horses, which are never employed but on those Nights the Comedy of the *Rehearsal* is performed; these Horses of Mr. *Bayes* have several Advantages over those that Mr. *Broom* keeps for his Scholars, as they are maintained at little or no Expence, are always ready caparisoned in the *Property Room*, and can never hurt the Limbs, or endanger the Lives, of the Riders. Nor are any ill Consequences to be apprehended from that once vicious and ungovernable Steed, that used to prance and throw his Rider at *Knight's-Bridge*\*. All tender Mothers may be assured, that this mettlesome Beast hath been so well broke by Mr. *Sheridan* himself, that no Horse in the Troop to which he belongs, is now safer or more manageable.

A just and true Taste of Sculpture will be acquired, by carefully studying the excellent Figures on the Monuments of St. *Patrick's* Cathedral, which are undoubtedly antique.

Architecture,

\* It is needless to inform those who have seen the *Rehearsal*, that one of Mr. *Bayes's* Horses always throws his Rider at *Knights-Bridge*.

Architecture, scarce known in this Kingdom, will be taught by the Designers of our Barracks; the Scholars will be made to examine the City *Tholsel*, the Beauties of that Structure will be pointed out to them, and the true Proportion and Symetry of that noble Pile, will be particularly attended to. Those who are to be professed Architects, will be frequently carried to *Quilca*, where they will see Lord *Burlington* and *Inigo Jones* excelled in their own Art. From the *Tholsel*, from *Quilca*, from the Monuments of *St. Patrick's*, the Master of the Academy has formed a manly Taste, which he has never enervated by visiting foreign Climes.

But, before I quit this important Subject of the new Method of Education, so unjustly cavil'd at, I presume it will not be amiss to take Notice of a Report which hath lately much prevailed in this Metropolis, that a Scheme has been formed, by the ingenious Mrs. *Pye*, for the Improvement of the young Ladies of this Kingdom. It hath been said, that many Ladies of the first Quality and Distinction have lately assembled at her Lodgings at the Sign of the *Hoop and Black Pudden* in *Copper-Alley*, where they have read her Scheme, approved it, and considered of proper Ways and Means to put it into Execution. Now, I can assure the Public from undoubted Authority, that the greater Part of this Report is false. It is true, that this most celebrated Actress, has long reflected, with infinite Grief, on the miserable Deficiency of the present Mode of Education for young Ladies; she has observed, with the utmost Concern, that this wretched Country must be inevitably undone, unless a speedy Remedy be applied to this dreadful Evil; and for that Purpose only, she first was induced to go upon the Stage, where, after a long laborious Search, in which, for a considerable Time, she beheld nothing but *Darkness visible*, she discovered, by mere Accident, that she could educate the Daughters of the Nobility and Gentry in such a Manner, that they should  
equal



equal in Virtue and Honour the Heroines of *Greece* and *Rome*; and fearing this important Secret should perish with her, she formed a Plan, which she knows may be readily executed, but has not as yet committed it to Paper, having communicated it only to a few select Friends. She shortly intends to lay it before the HIBERNIAN SOCIETY, and humbly hopes to prevail on the Members of that honourable Body, to double their Subscriptions, to enable her to erect a Square adjoining to Mr. *Sheridan's* proposed Structure, where she will inspect the Conduct of her Pupils, and appoint them proper Instructors: And as she hears that the young Gentlemen of the Academy are to be taught Morality from *Pamela*, Sir *Charles Grandison*, *Clarissa Harlow*, and other Novels, she presumes the same Course of Morality will be highly proper for her female Students; she likewise hopes that both Sexes, as they read the same Books, may study them together, by which many concealed Beauties may be discovered, and Friendships contracted to the mutual Satisfaction and Emolument of all Parties, during the Residue of their Lives. But, lest her Abilities should be doubted, she proposes to appoint a standing Committee, to which she herself shall be subject, who shall have a Power to put the Affairs of her young Ladies in a proper Posture.

She designs dividing her School into four Classes. The first is to consist of the Daughters of the Nobility only; these young Ladies are to be instructed in the French Language, by studying the Works of *Crebillon* and other Authors of equal Purity; they are to be instructed in *Pharo* and *Cribbage*, how to punt politely at one Game, how to Mark with Skill and Dexterity at the other. Great Care will be taken to teach them to spell accurately those Words which most frequently occur in Complimentary and Invitation Cards. They are to be

shewn



shewn how to behave fashionably, when they make Routs, Drums, and Hurricanes; how to manage Affairs of Gallantry with Prudence and Address; some elegant double Entendres and Bons Mots shall be daily repeated before them, in order to qualify them for refined and polite Conversation.

The second Class is to be made up of the Daughters of rich Commoners, and Gentlemen of Professions; these young Ladies are to be educated with more Strictness than those of the first Class; they are to be taught OEconomy, how to spend double their Income without injuring their Husbands Fortunes, which they may easily perform, by prevailing on Tradesmen to give them large Credit, and by learning a decent and artful Manner of dismissing troublesome and impertinent Duns. They shall be well skilled in contriving to make a very large Drum in a small House, though it consists only of two very small Rooms and a Cupboard on each Floor; they shall so dispose of the Card-Tables in those narrow Apartments, that as many Card-Players shall be entertained at their Routs, as in the Palaces of the Nobility. Their Study, Gallantry and Politeness, shall be the same as the former Class.

The third Class is to be composed of the Children of Country Squires, and rich Clergymen; to these Mrs. Pye will every Morning read a Lecture, either out of *Clelia*, the *Grand Cyrus*, or *Cleopatra*; she will shew them the Beauties of the best *English* Pastorals; she will teach them to sing some soft and delicate Sonnets; describe to them the Pleasures of a rural Life, and make their tender Hearts susceptible of the soft Passion of Love; she will arm them against Cruelty, and shew them, that to destroy the Peace and frustrate the Wishes of an ardent Lover, is nearly equal to the Crime of Murder; as to rob a Man of his Happiness is more cruel than to deprive him of his Life. She will endeavour

deavour to make their Studies Entertainments ; for Example, she will teach this Class to spell by the well known Play of *I love my Love with an A, with a B, &c.* To crack Jokes at Wakes, Weddings, and Christnings will be likewise necessary ; for this Purpose, she will put into their Hands the Works of the facetious *Joe Miller*, the *Nut-Cracker*, and *Pills to purge Melancholy*.

The last will contain the Daughters of younger Brothers and poor Clergymen, who are to be qualified for the Stage, for Milliners, and Toad-Eaters ; to these she will repeat Portions of modern Tragedies and Comedies, and make them apply particularly to the Works of *Congreve* and *Vanburgh* ; she will take care to give them a free Air, an easy Address, and a Fluency of Speech ; she will also make them rehearse some most tender and passionate Scenes with Mr. *Sheridan's* young Academics. This Class she will instruct in sentimental Toasts, and the Single Entendre ; therefore she will from their Infancy make them conversant with the Works of the great *Wilmot* ; but for the rest of the wretched Tribe of Rhimers, who, like *Pack-Horses*, jingle their Bells, \* viz. *Dryden, Waller, Prior, Pope, Parnel, &c.* they are to be banished from her Academy as well as from Mr. *Sheridan's*. But these are short Hints which she has thrown out in Conversation ; however, Mrs. *Pye's* Friends flatter themselves (of which Number, I own, I boast myself) shortly to prevail on her to favour the Public with her Scheme at large.

But, to return from this long Digression, which, I hope, will not be thought impertinent. Mr. *Sheridan* is accused of Ignorance in Grammar, the English Language,

\* *Vide Mr. Sheridan's Plan.*



Stile and Rhetoric. Here we may plainly see that the abusive Scribbler who attacks him on Account of these Deficiencies, is a School-Master, a Dunce, a mere Scholar, a Pedant.

“ *Hic niger est hunc tu Romane caveto.*”

It is granted, he has shewn a few false Concords in Mr. *Sheridan's* Oration, some Mistakes in Language, and Faults in Stile; but such trivial Neglects and Inaccuracies a great Orator and a Director of an Academy justly despises: He knows——

“ Great Wits sometimes may gloriously offend,  
 “ And rise to Faults, true Critics dare not mend;  
 “ From vulgar Bounds, with brave Disorder part,  
 “ And snatch a Grace, beyond the Reach of Art.”

Such a Genius therefore is surely the most proper to direct the Studies of Youth; he will teach them the Wonderful and Sublime, not shackle their Understandings with grammatical Fetters, and the pedantic Jargon of the Schools.

Who can hear, without Indignation, the villainous Jest that are thrown out against our respectable Orator, because he has pronounced to the Public, that he has gloriously destroyed his Health, and consumed his Fortune in his Country's Service, in labouring to acquire and *restore the long-lost Art of Oratory*, in which Art, on proper Encouragement, he generously declares, he will instruct Mankind; but if he does not meet with the great Rewards he deserves, he will conceal the Mystery, and let it perish with him. At this Part of his Oration the malicious Vulgar sneer, for “Fools will still be on the laughing Side.” If the learned Gentleman has explored this wonderful Secret, (and who can doubt it!) where in the Name of

Com-

Common Sense, is the Absurdity or Vanity of what he asserts? We all know he has injured his Constitution, and wasted his Time on the Theatre, and 'tis certain, his sole Motive was his Country's Good, for he has not added a single Acre to his paternal Estate; and undoubtedly he had an handsome Property before he commenced Actor. The Mansion House of his Family at *Quilha* hath been celebrated by the greatest Genius that ever adorned and enlightened this Kingdom.

The pious Manager has been most falsely and basely accused of purloining one Hundred and one Pounds, which he received towards erecting a Monument to Dean *Swift*; but that Calumny is now intirely refuted; that Debt to the Public, we are told, remains now on his Theatrical Books, which Debt, I will venture to affirm, is as well secured there, as in the Bank of *England*, otherways would the wise and prudent Mr. *F---r* lend a large Sum on the Security of the said Books-----Have not Messrs. *Macklin*, *Mossop*, and Mrs. *Woffington* considerable Sums of Money in the same Place, for which they have no other Security then said Books! But who can defend himself from the Tribe of *anonymous* Scribblers who swarm in this City? When the Friends of Mr. *Sheridan* draw their Pens in his Defence, they fairly, candidly and openly avow themselves, *Theatricus* and *Romanus* scorn to conceal themselves, they have put their Names to their Works, and the great Example I shall proudly follow.

Having thus cleared up the Integrity and strict Honesty of our just and upright Orator, give me leave to inform the World of his uncommon Piety. So devout, so religious was this Gentleman, that some few Years ago he purchased a Pew in St. *John's* Church, for the Accommodation of the Actors and Actresses under his  
Care,

Care, whom he caused to assemble in the Green Room of his Theatre, at the Hour of Ten each Sunday Morning, from whence he marched them in a solemn Procession, making them move decently, soberly and slowly, two and two to Church, where their Behaviour was so exemplary that they were admired by the whole Congregation. Could a Man of such Piety and Devotion, be suspected of Hypocrisy? Could such a Man deceive the Public? No! Impossible!

Thus let these *prostitute Wretches*, these *abandoned Slaves*, these *defamatory, diabolical, anonymous Scribblers* rail on; let them, as he most elegantly and clearly expresses himself, *really, and literally perform the Office of an Italian Bravo by the Help of a dark Lanthorn and Stiletto*; he will pursue his Journey without endeavouring to find out, or destroy the *Grass-hoppers in his Way*; let pregnant Malice teem with new Falsehoods; let the ill-natured, illeterate, slavish Dunces spit forth their Venom, *Thomas Sheridan, Esq;* is patronized, as the World must confess, by the wisest and greatest Men of this Nation. We may see in the List of his Friends, many Honourable and Right Honourable Personages too tedious to enumerate. In this proud Catalogue the great and amazing *Romanus* has enroll'd himself.

From these the World will judge of Men and Books; nay more, to crown the Glory of the Manager of *Smock-Alley*, to add to his Greatness, and to transmit his Fame to succeeding Ages, the admired and renowned Author of the *Dublin-Journal* declares himself his Friend-----Now all seems compleat, the Victory is our own; our theatrical Hero is by all confessed to be a Patron of the polite Arts; the great the only Orator on the Face of the Globe; the Guardian of our Youth; the Restorer of Virtue and Religion; the  
Pride,



( 23 )

Pride, Boast, and Bulwark of this Nation. *Let us  
then with Heart and Voice Cry out, Io Triumphe ! Io  
SHERIDAN !*

P. SHEA.

